

## Message Text

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ACTION FBO-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 SY-10 ABF-01 /019 W  
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R 021451Z NOV 73  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3620

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ABLD UR AFSP ASEC  
SUBJECT: NEW OFFICE SPACE IN CHANCERY

REF: (A) MOSCOW'S A-721 OF NOVEMBER 21, 1972  
(B) MOSCOW 8894  
(C) SOMMERLATTE LETTER TO RALSTON  
OF SEPTEMBER 18, 1973  
(D) RALSTON REPLY OF OCTOBER 15, 1973

1. WITH NEW APARTMENTS AT LENINSKI 83 APPROACHING  
READINESS FOR OCCUPANCY AND FURNITURE FOR THESE APART-  
MENTS ORDERED AND UNDERWAY, EMBASSY AT LONG LAST BEGINNING  
TO GAIN SOME ROOM FOR MANEUVER IN THE DIFFICULT QUESTION  
OF ACQUIRING NEW OFFICE SPACE. EMBASSY PLANS, AS SOON AS  
LENINSKIJ 83 APARTMENTS READY FOR OCCUPANCY (MOST IF  
NOT ALL SHOULD BE READY BY END OF YEAR), AND AS SOON AS  
FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, TO CONVERT SEVERAL OF PRESENT  
APARTMENTS IN CHANCERY TO OFFICES AND SEVERAL OTHERS INTO  
MARINE QUARTERS.

2. EMBASSY HAS FOLLOWING TENTATIVELY IN MIND:  
(A) RELOCATE TENANTS OF APARTMENTS ON SECOND FLOOR,  
CENTRAL WING OF CHANCERY, TO LENINSKIJ 83 APARTMENTS.  
SECOND FLOOR WILL THEN BE CONVERTED TO QUARTERS FOR  
MARINE GUARD CONTINGENT. COST IS ESTIMATED TO BE  
APPROXIMATELY \$21,000;  
(B) MARINE CONTINGENT WILL VACATE SIXTH FLOOR OF NORTH WING.  
THIS WILL THEN BE CONVERTED INTO REPRESENTATIONAL

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APARTMENTS FOR POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND ARMY ATTACHE.

COST FOR RECONFIGURATION WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$36,000;  
(C) POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND ARMY ATTACHE WILL VACATE SEVENTH  
FLOOR OF CHANCERY, PROVIDING NEW OFFICE SPACE FOR  
POLITICAL SECTION. SPACE VACATED BY POLITICAL SECTION ON  
NINTH FLOOR WILL BE TAKEN OVER FOR C&R UNIT USE; SPACE VACATED  
ON EIGHTH FLOOR WILL BE RECONFIGURED AND TURNED OVER TO  
ECONOMIC SECTION, PRESS AND CULTURAL, AND SCIENCE ATTACHE.  
MOST OF SEVENTH FLOOR WILL BE SECURE AREA ACCESSIBLE ONLY  
THROUGH NINTH FLOOR ENTRANCE. EMBASSY MAY SET ASIDE SEVERAL  
SMALL NON SECURE OFFICES ON THIS FLOOR, WALL THEM OFF FROM  
SECURE OFFICES, AND MAKE PROVISION FOR ENTRANCE TO THEM FROM  
SEVENTH FLOOR LANDING OF MAIN STAIRWELL. NON-SECURE  
OFFICES WOULD BE USED BY VISITING SCIENCE DELEGATIONS AND  
SIMILAR GROUPS. COST FOR RECONFIGURATION HAS BEEN  
ESTIMATED AT \$15,000; WITH LABOR PROVIDED BY SEABEES  
DETAILED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

3. PRESENT EMBASSY PLANS THUS SIMILAR IN CONCEPT TO PLANS  
EMBASSY FIRST OUTLINED IN REFAIR ALMOST ONE YEAR AGO, THOUGH  
THEY DIFFER IN DETAIL.

4. EMBASSY HAS INCLUDED ESTIMATES FOR RECONFIGURATION COSTS  
CITED ABOVE IN FY-1974 BUDGET SUBMISSIONS.  
DETAILED PLANS CAN BE SUBMITTED AFTER FBO ARCHITECT MAKES  
RECOMMENDATIONS ON NEW OFFICE CONFIGURATION.

5. EMBASSY WISHES TO STRESS NEED FOR RAPID MOVEMENT ON THIS  
PROJECT. CRAMPED, UNSIGHTLY AND UNSUITABLE OFFICES NOW  
OCCUPIED BY EMBASSY STAFF ARE HIGHLY DYSFUNCTIONAL, WEIGH  
HEAVILY ON MORALE, AND PRESENT HIGHLY UNCOMPLIMENTARY  
PICTURE OF US WORKING CONDITIONS. FOREIGN SERVICE  
INSPECTORS IN LATE 1972 CHARACTERIZED WORKING CONDITIONS IN  
CHANCERY AT WORST THEY HAD ENCOUNTERED IN LONG CAREERS IN THE  
FOREIGN SERVICE; THE SECRETARY, VISITING MOSCOW IN FALL OF  
1972 AS PRESIDENT'S ADVISER ON NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS,  
WAS SHOCKED BY DEPLORABLE WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE EMBASSY.

6. EMBASSY DOUBTS THAT NEW EMBASSY COMPLEX WILL BE  
FUNCTIONING IN MOSCOW BEFORE 1980, AND BELIEVES THAT WAIT  
OF THAT LENGTH JUSTIFIES EXPENDITURE OF RELATIVELY MODEST  
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SUM TO BRING OFFICE SPACE AND WORKING CONDITIONS IN  
CHANCERY UP TO MORE NEARLY ACCEPTABLE LEVEL.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT FBO DETAIL AN  
ARCHITECT TO MOSCOW FOR A SHORT TDY AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE TO HELP EMBASSY FLESH OUT GENERAL CONCEPT ON SPACE  
UTILIZATION OUTLINED ABOVE. EMBASSY BELIEVES  
ASSISTANCE OF TRAINED ARCHITECT NECESSARY TO AVOID

REPETITION OF ERRORS MADE IN ATTEMPTS AT REMODELING IN THE PAST. IF FBO ARCHITECT NOT AVAILABLE IN NEAR FUTURE, EMBASSY PLANS TO ASK DR. SEPP FRANK, THE AUSTRIAL ARCHITECT WHO DESIGNED THE EMBASSY'S NEW COMMERCIAL OFFICE, TO COME TO MOSCOW AT EARLIEST CONVENIENCE TO ASSIST IN PROJECT.

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